

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: R. SAITO, et al.

Application No.: Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of U.S. Patent Application  
Serial No. 10/302,953, filed November 25, 2002

Filed: On Even Date Herewith

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE AND METHOD  
OF OPERATION THEREOF

Art Group of Parent: 2818

Examiner of Parent: T. Q. Phan

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW PRIOR TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MPEP § 713.02**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 24, 2004

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 713.02, which states:

"A request for interview prior to first Office Action is ordinarily granted  
in continuing or substitute applications,"

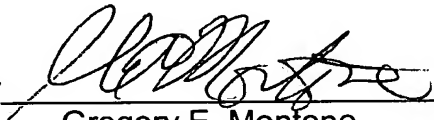
applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to  
arrange for an interview prior to first Office Action in this continuation application.  
With regard to this, applicants are in the process of preparing new claims for the  
Examiner's consideration, which will be discussed during the interview. Applicants  
and the undersigned attorney greatly appreciate the Examiner's consideration in this  
regard.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of, either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 503.30370CC8).

Respectfully submitted,

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